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081102Z Dec 05

UNCLAS YEREVAN 002121

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CACEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXTENDS GOAM NON-COMBAT
CONTINGENT TO IRAQ

REF: 04 YEREVAN 2787

Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect
accordingly.

(SBU) On December 8, the Armenian National Assembly voted to extend Armenia's deployment of a non-combat contingent to Iraq for an additional year. In contrast to last December's original authorization, opposition parties who are boycotting the National Assembly did not return to vote (reftel). Most of the pro-government coalition (with the exception of the Dashnaks) and non-aligned members, voted to extend the contingent's mandate, and it cleared the National Assembly by a vote of 73 for to 12 against, with one abstention. (Note: The resolution needed a simple majority of 66 votes to pass the National Assembly. End Note.)
EVANS